THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Non-payment of wages to Indian by a Dubai based company

979. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian workers employed by a construction company of Dubai have not been paid their salaries since last one year;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon;

(c) how many such cases have come into light during the last two years and what is the country-wise details of such cases; and

(d) what action is being taken/would be taken by Government against the agencies involved in sending the workers illegally and what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) As reported by the Consulate General of India, Dubai, there was no such case.

(c) Such data is not maintained.

(d) Sporadic complaints are received about cheating of Indian workers by unregistered recruiting agents. On receipt of such complaints, the concerned Protectors of Emigrants (PoEs) are directed to file complaints/ FIRs against such unregistered recruiting agents for violation of Section 10 of the Emigration Act 1983. During the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 (upto 31.10.2005), 25, 39 and 49 complaints have respectively been filed with the Police authorities against such illegal recruiting agencies.

Religious holidays

980. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be plesed to state:

(a) the number of religious holidays at present being given to Central Government employees in the country;

(b) the present position in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of restricted holidays instead of religious holidays; and